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## COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Board of Deputies reacts to reports that  
Jeremy Corbyn's office intervened to stop  
antisemitism suspension



**Kayla Bibby**



8 Mar at 14:05 • Liverpool • 🌐

The most accurate photo i've seen all year!



Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl has reacted to a report that Jeremy Corbyn's office had prevented a Labour Party member being suspended for antisemitism.

Marie said: "It is intensely disturbing to hear reports that the Labour leader's office has intervened to stop the suspension of a member who defended an antisemitic mural in East London. Labour has long

antisemitism in the leader's office and shows contempt for the concerns of the Jewish community."

In addition, the Board of Deputies responded to news that a different member was not to be suspended despite applauding an image in which an alien displaying a Star of David had attached itself to the Statue of Liberty (see photo above). The Board

told us that complaints are expedited independently. This case would indicate that there is something more than 'zero tolerance' for

of Deputies tweet said: "How could anyone think this image is NOT antisemitic?"

Read The Times article [here](#) and the JC report [here](#).

## Exhibition explaining the Jewish way of life is launched at St Albans Cathedral

Hundreds of Hertfordshire schoolchildren are learning about the Jewish way of life this week following the launch of the Jewish Living Experience Exhibition at St Albans Cathedral.

Visitors are gaining an insight into the basics of the festivals, as well as Shabbat (the Jewish Sabbath) the principles of kosher food and how Jewish children undertake Bar and Bat Mitzvah coming-of-age ceremonies.

The exhibition, run by the Board of Deputies, was launched last week and is hosted by St Albans Cathedral in association with St Albans Masorti Synagogue. It has already been seen by thousands of people in schools, colleges, public buildings and synagogues, and has been displayed in venues around the country from Exeter to Newcastle.

The exhibition comprises a dozen stands with clear informative images and information, as well as Judaism practice role-playing items, including a Shabbat table, Purim festival dressing up clothes, examples of kosher foods and engaging puzzles, designed to meet the requirements of the new Religious Education Judaism syllabus.

More than 300 Hertfordshire schoolchildren and their teachers have been attending, in addition to 30 professional RE educators. Over 20 Jewish volunteer guides are on hand to 'walk and talk' the groups around the exhibition, which is also open to members of the public visiting the Cathedral.

Guests at the launch included Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire Robert Voss; Mayor of St Albans Rosemary Farmer and Canon Chancellor Kevin Walton.

Board of Deputies Vice President Edwin Shuker, who introduced the exhibition, said: "This important educational interfaith initiative provides an introduction to Jewish life and customs as they are practised in Britain today. Living in such a diverse country as the UK, it is important for people to understand and respect each other's traditions. Understanding each other's traditions and symbols of faith will inevitably enhance community cohesion."

He added: "We are grateful to Haim Ben-Zion and his colleagues at St Albans Masorti Synagogue for their wonderful efforts, without which we would not have been able to stage this exhibition. Thanks also to our Education Development Manager Sara Perlmutter for her dedication to the exhibition."

The award winning SAMS 'Roots' exhibition illustrating family histories of members of the St Albans Masorti Jewish Community is also on show at the exhibition which has been facilitated by the Cathedral Education Centre, Board of Deputies and St Albans Masorti Synagogue (SAMS).



**Board of Deputies of British Jews** @BoardofDeputies · 2m

In the run up to Int'l Women's Day, we're giving a platform to brilliant Jewish women. Next up, @RachelRileyRR: "There are 15 million girls who will never set foot in a primary school classroom... I hope for 2019 we can continue to make that number as small as possible." #IWD2019



In the run-up to International Women's Day, we are giving a platform all week to brilliant Jewish women. This tweet features Rachel Riley. Others have so far included Laura Marks and Sally Patterson, Elizabeth Harris-Sawczencko, Amanda Bowman, Olivia Marks-Woldman, Sara Rose and Ruth Smeeth MP. See all of the tweets [here](#)



Jewish Agency Chair Isaac Herzog met Board of Deputies representatives in London this week. Left to right: Irit Barash, Director of Keren Hayesod, Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl, Isaac Herzog, Board of Deputies Chief Executive Gillian Merron and Board of Deputies Public Affairs Director Phil Rosenberg

## ACTIVITY REPORT

## INTERNATIONAL

**President Marie van der Zyl** visited Albania for two days representing the World Jewish Congress as its Vice President. She spoke on “Jewish Diaspora and Best Practices” at the Plenary Assembly Session of the Albanian Diaspora in Tirana. Also speaking at the event were Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, and President Ilir Meta. She gave a lecture at Luarasi University in Tiranato on human rights and the importance of safeguarding religious freedoms to an audience of Albanian students and was interviewed by News 24 TV about her experiences in Albania.

**Senior Vice President Sheila Gewolb** led a delegation of Deputies from the International Division to Brussels to meet with European organisations and individuals who support Israel and fight against antisemitism. The timing of this meeting was important because after March 29, the UK may not have access to EU policy.

The delegation met the following:

Katharina von Schnurbein, coordinator on combating antisemitism at the European Commission, to discuss the adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

Heinz Becker, Chair of the European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism (European People’s Party) to discuss antisemitism in the EU and the role of the European Parliament in fighting antisemitism.

Yohan Benizri, President of the Belgian Federation of Jewish Organizations, and discussed the ban on Shechita in Wallonia and Flanders and the situation of Jewish life in Belgium.

Michael Sieveking, Deputy Director, AJC Transatlantic Institute and Jonas Dafner-Markowitz, European Affairs Officer, to learn about AJC and its advocacy work in Brussels.

Charles Tannock MEP, Conservatives and Reformists’ Foreign Affairs spokesperson, to discuss antisemitism in the UK and Brexit.

Elise Coolegem, Middle East Policy Advisor at European Parliament to learn about Israel and its role in the European Parliament.

Maram Stern, Deputy CEO for Diplomacy of the World Jewish Congress and David Walsh, Desk Officer for Europe, Australia & South Africa from the World Jewish Congress to discuss rising antisemitism, especially in Europe.

Maria Bagdasarova, Campaigns and Communications Officer, and Daniela Buga, Public Affairs Officer from the EJC to discuss Brexit and the current challenges European Jews are facing.

The delegation attended a lecture by Péter Niedermueller MEP, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Israel (S&D), which was organised by the European Union of Jewish Students.

## COMMUNITY

**Chief Executive Gillian Merron** met Michelle Janes, Executive Director of Lead, to discuss training and development.

**Chief Executive Gillian Merron** chaired the CEO Forum hosted by JLiving. There were presentations by David Goldberg on "Fundraising Challenges for Jewish Charities in 2019" and Laurie Rackind, the CEO of JAMI, on "Transforming the Mental Health Landscape".

**Chief Executive Gillian Merron** attended the JLC/Lead event, "International Women's Day and the Jewish Community".

## EDUCATION

**Senior Vice President Sheila Gewolb** attended an executive meeting of the National Association of

Statutory Advisory Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE), which focused on the new development plan to improve support and effectiveness for local SACREs.

**Public Affairs Director Phil Rosenberg** and **Education Policy and Youth Engagement Officer Jake Berger** had a catch-up meeting with officials at the Department for Education, to discuss recent and upcoming policy developments, and proposals for joint projects.

## POLITICAL

**Parliamentary Officer Joel Salmon** met the Church of England's Parliamentary Team to discuss future opportunities for collaboration.

**Parliamentary Officer Joel Salmon** met Stephen Kerr, the MP for Stirling, to discuss matters relating to religious freedom and the APPG on British Jews. Joel provides the secretariat to the APPG on British Jews.

**Parliamentary Officer Joel Salmon** met Guto Bebb MP to discuss combatting antisemitism and the work of the APPG on British Jews.

## HERITAGE

**Heritage and Archives Manager Dawn Waterman** and **Head of Community Engagement Sarah David** met Ruth Jacobs of the Birmingham Representative Council and representatives of the Wolverhampton Civic and Historical Society at the disused Jewish cemetery in Wolverhampton to discuss the future of the cemetery.

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

**Education Policy and Youth Engagement Officer Jake Berger** met Alex Jakubowski and Mia Yellin from KAHAL to discuss youth engagement.

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